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Security Council

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Letter dated 9 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the United States Presidency of the Security Council for August 2002 (see annex). This has been prepared on my own authority, but I have consulted other members of the Council before submitting it.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John D. **Negroponte**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States of America (August 2002)

Introduction

Under the Presidency of Ambassador John D. Negroponte, Permanent Representative of the United States of America, the Security Council focused its work in August on developments in Africa, particularly in southern Africa. The Council met jointly with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the Special Envoy of the President of Rwanda on the Great Lakes Region to discuss a South Africa-brokered Agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, signed in Pretoria on 30 July. The Council expressed its strong support for the Pretoria Agreement in a presidential statement. The Council also met with the Vice-Minister for External Relations of Angola to consider his views on a revised mandate for the United Nations in Angola. During August, the Council extended the suspension of the travel ban on UNITA, as provided for in resolution 1127 (1997), and modified the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) to include demining required for demarcation of the new border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The Council held four open meetings and four private meetings, including one with troop-contributing countries, and met in informal consultations on eight occasions. The President circulated an annotated list summarizing prior discussions of various procedural issues.

The President spoke to the news media after each occasion on which the Council met in consultations. He was authorized by members of the Council to make a number of statements to the press. The presidency also briefed non-members of the Council after each occasion on which the Council held informal consultations. The web site of the United States Mission included an up-to-date version of the Council's programme of work and all statements made to the press.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

During informal consultations on 6 August, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hédi Annabi briefed the Council on the Agreement signed by Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 30 July in Pretoria, South Africa. Members of the Council agreed on a short statement to the press welcoming the Agreement as a positive step; commending South Africa's role in facilitating the Agreement; and noting their intention to discuss the Agreement and issues surrounding its implementation with the Foreign Ministers of South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the Special Envoy of the President of Rwanda on the Great Lakes Region later in the week.

In the Council's open meeting on 8 August, the Secretary-General welcomed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Léonard She Okitundu, and the Special Envoy of the President of Rwanda on the Great Lakes Region, Patrick Mazimpaka, and hailed their Governments' support for the Pretoria Agreement. The Secretary-General acknowledged the need for the international community to support the initiative. Foreign Ministers Dlamini Zuma and She Okitundu and Special Envoy Mazimpaka all welcomed the Agreement as an important step forward in the Lusaka peace process. They reiterated their Governments' commitment to facilitate the withdrawal of Rwandan troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the dismantling of the former Rwandan Armed Forces and Interahamwe forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

After the open meeting, at which the only speakers were the four mentioned above, members reconvened in a private meeting to discuss implementation issues related to the Agreement. Members welcomed the Agreement as a very positive step in resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and commended the political will expressed in the Agreement by Presidents Kabila and Kagame. Members strongly commended the Government of South Africa, and in particular President Mbeki for his role in negotiating the Agreement and for his commitment to help in its implementation. They also welcomed the part played by the African Union and looked forward to the Union's further influence in helping to bring an end to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Members acknowledged that the United Nations would have a role in assisting the parties and other African States in implementation, and therefore welcomed the intention of the parties to consult closely with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other relevant United Nations agencies as soon as possible. Members also used the meeting to clarify various aspects of the Agreement and further details of its implementation.

During the second week of August members discussed the text of a presidential statement, which was adopted and read out by the President in an open meeting on 15 August. The President also met separately on 15 August with representatives of the Southern African Development Community, who expressed their strong support for the Agreement.

Angola

At its private meeting, on 7 August, the Council heard from Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari on the situation in Angola and on the Secretary-General's report of 26 July, which, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1294 (2000), recommended additional measures for promoting the peace process. At that meeting, the Vice-Minister for External Relations of Angola, Georges Chikoti, also presented the views of his Government on the Secretary-General's report. Members continued their discussion with the Under-Secretary-General in informal consultations immediately following the private meeting. Members noted the need to consider the views of the Government of Angola in the consideration of a new mandate.

Following those meetings, the President met again with Vice-Minister Chikoti, and representatives of the Troika countries — the United States, Russia and Portugal — met with Angolan Government officials in Luanda to prepare a draft resolution, which was distributed to members in consultations on 14 August. On 15 August the Council adopted resolution 1433 (2002), authorizing the

establishment of the United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA) for a period of six months, until 15 February 2003. Resolution 1433 (2002) provided several adjustments to the mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola, and directed UNMA to assist the parties in specific ways in concluding the Lusaka Protocol and to assist the Government of Angola in a wide range of tasks in support of the peace process.

In consultations on 14 August the President distributed to members a draft resolution extending the suspension of the travel ban on UNITA authorized in resolution 1412 (2002) for an additional 90 days. On 15 August the Council adopted the text as resolution 1432 (2002).

Ethiopia and Eritrea

On 13 August the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council and troop contributors on recent developments, highlighting the need for additional demining in order to allow for the demarcation of the border as decided by the Boundary Commission. In consultations on 14 August, Ambassador Strømmen (Norway) introduced a draft resolution adding demining for demarcation to the mandate of UNMEE, which was adopted by the Council that same day as resolution 1430 (2002).

Burundi

In informal consultations on 21 August, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Tuliameni Kalomoh briefed the Council on the latest developments in Burundi. Members of the Council agreed on a short statement to the press, appealing for an immediate cessation of hostilities; calling upon the belligerents to negotiate in good faith in Dar es Salaam; expressing support for all efforts by the Facilitator, regional leaders and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to achieve a political solution; urging all parties to respect international humanitarian law and to permit the safe and voluntary return of refugees; and calling upon all Burundian parties to continue to implement the Arusha Agreement and to support the peace process.

Sierra Leone

In informal consultations on 29 August members of the Council considered the six-month review of the Certificate of Origin regime for diamonds, established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997). Ambassador Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) briefed members in his capacity as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Sanctions Committee. Following the meeting the President released an agreed statement to the press expressing appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone for the submission of its fourth 180-day review report on the Sierra Leone diamond Certificate of Origin regime and commending it on its efforts to monitor trade in diamonds; taking note of the problems still facing the Sierra Leone Government in the areas of illicit production and smuggling of diamonds and encouraging it to strengthen further its internal monitoring capacity; urging the international community and donor countries to support ongoing Sierra Leone Government efforts to implement effective internal measures to control diamond certification and to promote economic development through mining activities; and welcoming the continuing

efforts within the Kimberley Process to develop a global certification scheme for rough diamonds.

Central African Republic

Members of the Council accepted under the silence procedure a recommendation by the Secretary-General to extend the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic for a period of one year, until 31 December 2003.

Guinea-Bissau

As discussed beforehand in the informal working group on Africa, the President sent letters regarding Guinea-Bissau to the international financial institutions on behalf of members of the Council.

Asia

East Timor

On 13 August the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on recent developments in East Timor and on the progress made by the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) in fulfilling its mandate, as authorized by the Council in resolution 1410 (2002). The Assistant Secretary-General informed Council members that three months into its mission, UNMISET was on track to complete its mandate by mid-2004, as scheduled. Members applauded the Government of East Timor and UNMISET for their successful cooperation during the first months of the Mission and encouraged them to continue their close collaboration.

Iraq

On 15 August the Secretary-General issued his ninth report on compliance by Iraq with its obligations under resolution 1284 (1999), regarding the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains. Members of the Security Council held informal consultations on 21 August to hear a briefing from the High-level Coordinator on Iraq, Yuli Vorontsov, on the report. The President informed members of the Council of his discussions with the Permanent Representative of Kuwait. Following the meeting, the President released an agreed statement to the press expressing support for the efforts of the High-level Coordinator in following the issue; expressing deep concern at the continuing plight of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals still remaining in Iraq and the hope that the issue would be dealt with as a humanitarian one by all sides concerned; stating support for the Secretary-General's report and the work of the various regional groups; and calling on Iraq to stand by its prior commitment of cooperation and to cooperate with the efforts of the High-level Coordinator.

During consultations on 21 August members also briefly discussed the letter dated 15 August sent by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Secretary-General regarding weapons inspections. The letter was also discussed during a meeting of the President with the Executive Chairman of the United Nations

Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, Hans Blix, on 26 August, and briefly in consultations on 27 August.

Bougainville

The Security Council held informal consultations on 29 August to hear a briefing by the Director of the Asia and the Pacific Division of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs on progress in implementing the August 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement. Following the meeting the President released an agreed statement to the press welcoming a statement by the new Government of Papua New Guinea that peace-building in Bougainville is a national priority; noting with appreciation the important role played by the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, as well as the Peace Monitoring Group, made up of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu; recalling the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement; encouraging the parties to work together to implement the Peace Agreement and stressing the critical importance of implementation of the weapons disposal plan; and taking note of the importance of international aid in support for the peace process.

Middle East

Members of the Security Council held informal consultations on 22 August to hear a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Danilo Türk on developments in the Middle East. The Assistant Secretary-General informed the Council about the international task force meeting in Paris and the Secretary-General's appointment of a Personal Humanitarian Envoy, Catherine Bertini. He also expressed concern about the uneasy calm prevailing along the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon and urged interested parties to make efforts to bring an end to Israeli overflights of Lebanon and Hizbullah anti-aircraft firings over Israel that could lead to escalation.

Afghanistan

Members of the Security Council held informal consultations on 27 August to hear a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs on developments in Afghanistan. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that the first anniversary of the events of 11 September, in conjunction with the session of the General Assembly, was an opportune moment to renew and refocus attention on Afghanistan, particularly in the donor community. He expressed concern over the security situation, noting in particular several attacks against United Nations assets, but cited positive steps taken to begin work on the Afghan Constitution, to ensure revenue receipts by the Transitional Authority and to complete the reform of the security sector. Council members focused on the question of stability and donor assistance, counter-narcotics issues, donor coordination and human rights concerns.

Other issues

International Tribunals

On 14 August the Council adopted resolution 1431 (2002) to adjust the statute of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to allow for the addition of ad litem judges. This technical resolution was in response to a letter from the Secretary-General

(S/2002/241) dated 4 March 2002, to which was annexed a letter from the President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda addressed to the Secretary-General.

Members of the Council discussed in and on the margins of several consultation meetings an appropriate response to an earlier report of non-cooperation with the International Tribunal for Rwanda, conveyed in July 2002 by the Prosecutor of the Tribunal, Carla Del Ponte.

Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

Members of the Council held their first meeting with troop-contributing countries under an additional mechanism, established under a note by the President of the Security Council of 14 January 2002, to discuss the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. Members of the council agreed to a procedure, proposed by Ambassador Strømmen (Norway) in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group, that would allow States that do not contribute troops to request to participate in a specific meeting with troop-contributing States.